



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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H.R. 1: More Options for Parents, Accountability for Results

Accountability and expanded parental options are both essential elements of President Bush's education plan, *No Child Left Behind*. Today, as education reform proponents rally on Capitol Hill to defeat an anti-accountability amendment offered by Reps. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) and Barney Frank (D-MA), House GOP leaders will make a final push to restore private school choice to the President's education bill.

This morning, House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX) and Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) held a news conference to stress that education reform will be incomplete until low-income parents and children have equal educational opportunity, including the option of private school choice. "Regardless of income level, parents deserve the opportunity to decide what's best for their children," Boehner said. "Parents in disadvantaged communities deserve the same educational options suburban parents have. Those options should include not just public and charter schools, but private schools as well."

Meanwhile, the White House is mobilizing to defeat efforts to gut H.R. 1 by eliminating the President's plan to inject accountability into federal education spending by annually testing public school students in grades 3-8 in reading and math. The White House has made clear that the Hoekstra-Frank amendment would tear the heart out of the President's bill.

Message of the Day

Testing and school choice are essential components of President Bush's vision of holding schools accountable to parents.

- ❑ *School choice gives parents the tools they need to decide what's right for their children's educational future, regardless of income.*
- ❑ *Testing empowers parents by providing them vital information on whether their children are learning and how their school stacks up against others.*
- ❑ *Testing and choice empower parents at the expense of the education bureaucracy.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Under H.R. 1, states will select the test that best suits their needs. The bill authorizes \$400 million to help states develop effective systems of standards and assessments.
- The bill gives states adequate time, three years, to comply with the new testing requirements. It also gives them the flexibility to use NAEP or another widely recognized assessment to verify their results.
- A poll conducted for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) found that 76 percent of the American public supports the Bush plan to require states to annually test students in grades 3-8 in reading and math.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Without yearly testing, we do not know who is failing behind and who needs our help. Without yearly testing, too often we don't find failure until it is too late." **President George W. Bush**